



Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

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NEWS RELEASE

David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sheriff's Stop Leads to Arrest of Impaired Driver

Milwaukee, WI - On Saturday, August 21, 2010, around 2:10 p.m., while on US45 southbound at Burleigh Street, Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr., observed a minivan being driven erratically. The vehicle was traveling at 40 mph, causing other motorists to go around the driver. The Sheriff followed the driver and observed the vehicle numerous times weave into the right distress lane, and then to the left, crossing into the middle lane, causing drivers to hit their horns and swerve out of the way.

Clarke radioed into Sheriff's Communications that he had a possible drunk driver. The Sheriff pulled the vehicle over just north of the Watertown Plank Road exit. Initially the driver failed to pull over.

Clarke approached the driver, who appeared to be in a daze, and asked the woman why she was driving 40 mph on the freeway and weaving back and forth. She indicated that she had taken a prescription sleeping aid, and said that she was "pretty out of it." She also stated that she knew she shouldn't be driving after taking sleeping aids.

She was asked to exit the vehicle for a field sobriety test, but her balance was so unsteady that asking her to complete the test would have endangered her. The driver, from Milwaukee, was taken into custody and conveyed to an area hospital for a blood draw to determine what substances she had used. It will be several weeks before the results of the chemical tests are available.

Sheriff Clarke said, "This is as dangerous a driving incident as I have ever observed. Many motorists see this sort of thing and call in to report it. Fortunately, I had the authority to make the stop before she could cause a crash. Impaired drivers pose a serious threat to other motorists."

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